



International Telecommunication Union
Arab Regional Office (ARB)



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Cairo/Beirut, 19 October 2023

- Arab Administrations of ITU Member States
- Arab Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members and Associates
- Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Academia Institutions
- Regional and International Organizations concerned
- Regional chairs and vice chairs of the Advisory Groups and Study Groups
- UN Organizations in the Arab Region
- UN Resident Coordinators of Countries in the Arab Region
- All stakeholders' non-members of ITU

**Subject: Accessible Arab Region 2023 - ICT For ALL (3rd edition),
Rabat – Morocco, 28 to 30 November 2023**

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the “**Accessible Arab Region- ICT for ALL (3rd edition)**” co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and kindly hosted by the Digital Development Agency (ADD) of Morocco, from **28 to 30 November 2023** at the Hotel La Tour Hassan Palace in Rabat – Kingdom of Morocco. The event will be delivered in Arabic, English and French. The sign language will be also available.

The event aims to raise awareness, share experiences and lessons learned, and promote networking among participants while focusing on knowledge development, capacity building, and showcasing good practices for involving all the targets people including persons with disabilities in planning, designing and developing appropriate solutions, with the ultimate goal of empowering all people to access the digital world effectively.

Through this event, ITU and ESCWA are launching an invitation to all Member States and stakeholders to jointly identify the ways forward to foster implementation and mainstream digital accessibility, as a means to provide innovative and equitable solutions that show how technology could ensure inclusiveness and empowerment of everyone, including persons with disabilities. Moreover, the event will be an opportunity for participants to initiate reflect on how to empower all, from young to older persons, to access the digital world effectively and smoothly in benefit for quality of life of everyone including people with disabilities. Finally, the Accessible Arab Region- ICT for ALL event aims to share and discuss the work and initiatives carried out to promote and support the implementation of policies, strategies and resources to ensure inclusiveness of all people including persons with disabilities in the framework of the SDG, CRPD, UNDIS and other related global commitments.

The event serves as a regional knowledge development platform for an open informative and interactive discussions with all interested stakeholders on ICT/digital accessibility requirements, standards and universal design principles, aiming to support UN members and regional stakeholders in their implementation/mainstreaming efforts by sharing good practices and challenges, leveraging their capacity in the ICT/digital accessibility related topics while also offering networking and partnership opportunities to facilitate the development of digitally inclusive societies and environments in the region, towards achieving the global goal of digital inclusion for all.

The event will bring together all relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, Member states, Private sector, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), technology companies in the private sector including startups and SMEs, technology professionals from the public sector, researchers, relevant regional and international organizations.

In order to facilitate the participation of delegates from the Arab Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Developing Countries (DCs), ITU will offer a limited number of **Full Fellowship** to cover the cost of return economy ticket and accommodation, with a priority given to LDCs. The interested countries should fill in the Fellowship request form (**Annex 1**), which is available on the website mentioned below, sign and validate it and return it to ITU no later than **1 November 2023**.


More information about the event, including [registration](#), agenda, and other details, can be accessed on the event's websites through the following links ([ITU](#))¹, ([ESCWA](#))². Please note that the deadline for registration via the mentioned link is **November 26, 2023**. For inquiries or further information, please contact: Ms. Rouda Alamir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU Arab Regional Office (rouda.alamirali@itu.int) and Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, ESCWA (barbarm@un.org).

We look forward to your participation and invaluable contribution towards the success of this important event.

Yours faithfully,



Adel M. Darwish
Regional Director
ITU Regional Office
for the Arab States



Nibal Idlebi
Officer in Charge
Statistics, Information Society and Technology
Cluster
ESCWA

¹ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2023/AccessibleARB/Accessible-ARB2023.aspx>

² <https://www.unescwa.org/events/third-accessible-arab-region-ict-all>